

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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R 070900Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 788
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3101

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, PK, CE
SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: PAKISTAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

REF: COLOMBO 3064 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE CARRIED 7 JULY COLOMBO
'SUN' FRONT PAGE UNDER FOUR COLUMN HEAD, 'ZIA CONTACTS LANKA
TO BECOME NON-ALIGNED -- BY 'SUN' DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
2. BEGIN TEXT. THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR OF PAKISTAN
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GENERAL ZIA UL HAQ HAS INTIMATED TO THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT
HIS COUNTRY S INTEREST IN JOINING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.
SUN RELIABLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT HAS
MADE SPECIFIC MENTION ABOUT ITS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
FORTHCOMING CRUCIAL TALKS IN BELGRADE.
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ARE SCHEDULED
TO MEET IN BELGRADE IN A FEW WEEKS TIME. SRI LANKA FOREIGN

MINISTER MR.A.C.S. HAMEED WILL LEAD OUR DELEGATION TO THE TALKS. WELL INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID PAKISTAN HAD MADE REPRESENTATION TO SRI LANKA AS WELL AS TO SEVERAL OTHER MEMBER NATIONS TO SUPPORT ITS ENTRY TO THE BLOC-FREE GROUPING.

SRI LANKA IS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATING BUREAU WHICH USUALLY CONSIDERS THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS. THEREFORE ANY FORMAL APPLICATION HAS TO BE MADE TO THIS BODY WHICH WILL LATER SEEK A CONSENSUS AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO THE ENTRY OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE MOVEMENT.

THESE SOURCES ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT PAKISTAN COULD MUSTER ADEQUATE SUPPORT AMONG THE MAJORITY TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT. THE ONLY IMPEDIMENT THAT ISLAMABAD FACES IS ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION (CENTO). THIS MUTUAL DEFENCE PACT CAME INTO BEING IN 1955 AMONG TURKEY, IRAQ, BRITAIN AND PAKISTAN. IRAQ WITHDREW FROM IT IN 1959 AND IS NOW A LEADING MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP.

A FEW WEEKS AGO INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MR. ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SPONSOR PAKISTAN S ENTRY TO THE GROUP ON CONDITION THAT IT LEAVES CENTO.

HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT PAKISTAN S UNITED NATION S REPRESENTATIVE MR. IQBAL AKHUND HAD MADE CONTACTS WITH HIM ABOUT PAKISTAN PARTICIPATING IN THE BELGRADE PARLEY.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CONTEND THAT PAKISTAN IS LIKELY TO BE ADMITTED TO THE MOVEMENT AS A GUEST MEMBER AND WOULD BE EVEN PARTICIPATE AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS IN BELGRADE. HOWEVER IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE DELIBERATIONS PROPER. INDIA IS NOT LIKELY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSITION.

THESE SOURCES CITE THE CASE OF ROMANIA WHICH, DESPITE BEING A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST WARSAW PACT, WAS ADMITTED TO THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT DURING THE COLOMBO SUMMIT.

EVEN IF ISLAMABAD FAILS TO RECEIVE GUEST STATUS AT THE BELGRADE MEETING, IT WOULD ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE AT THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT IN HAVANA, THE SOURCES ADDED. END TEXT.

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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